

DORIS FLEESON

The Administration Goes It Alone

Attitude on NATO Talks Cited to Show
Outsiders' Views Are Unwelcome

Despite the bipartisan skirmishing which preceded it, the Eisenhower administration is handling the NATO conference strictly in its own name.

The group President Eisenhower takes into the discussions includes no advocates of crash programs or of long-range ground-breaking plans. Neither congressional nor eminent civilian opinion is represented. The principal concession to the apprehension aroused by the Sputnik is the presence of Dr. James R. Killian, Jr., the President's scientific adviser.

Dr. Killian was appointed with great fanfare during the tense early days and duly provided with the appurtenances of high office. He then dropped from view, but his presence in Paris will quiet the questioning murmurs that were just beginning to be heard.

In other respects the group is very much the same prescription as before. It is highly representative of the staff system by which the President has from his first days in office operated the public business.

Thus it appears that a very important political decision was either made on purpose or has somehow materialized

out of the preliminary pulling and hauling here at home.

It is that the administration will run this show, sink or swim, on its own. No crisis mood is admitted.

The position reflects, and possibly was inspired by, the President's reported feeling that he must be able to do the NATO job if he is to remain President more than in name. It is typical of the man of action, and those friends and observers who argued that he should remain here, conserving his strength and thinking about the long pull, are temporarily silenced.

Meanwhile Presidential Aide Sherman Adams has unobtrusively riveted his copper-clad hold on the White House daily operations. It is now reported as a safe bet that Robert K. Gray, special White House assistant on patronage, will be the President's new Appointments Secretary.

Adams is the patronage czar of the administration. The Republican National Committee does not like the arrangement by which Adams has such undisputed control in this field. Chairman Meade Alcorn heard about an appointment in his

own State only after it had been made. Alcorn's friends in Congress laughed when he complained; they have had the same treatment from Adams for years.

The Appointments Secretary controls, especially in this administration, access to the President. It is a position of immense power. It can strongly affect the feeling members of Congress entertain toward the President; politicians are at his mercy. Gray is not quite a stranger to Republicans for he has handled liaison on patronage jobs with the national committee, but he is little known to the great bulk of people in business, labor, the professions, even the Government, who would like to attract the President's attention.

One important businessman, a two-time Eisenhower backer, says it makes little difference since so few people now see the President without Adams being present anyway. He and his Wall Street friends accept this, he says, as a second-term fact of life and have almost quit trying to do anything about it. APPROX.

Gray is a 36-year-old bachelor from Hastings, Nebr., a former special assistant for manpower in the Navy Department and a former instructor at the Harvard Business School.

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